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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Head of State of Sierra Leone, in a letter dated 24 November 1994, formally requested my good offices to facilitate negotiations between his Government and the forces in his country known as the Revolutionary United Front. On 15 December 1994, I dispatched an exploratory mission to Sierra Leone to initiate consultations to that effect.

The mission noted the serious deterioration of the situation in the country as a result of the three-year conflict. About 10 per cent of the population in Sierra Leone are refugees in neighbouring countries and at least 30 per cent are internally displaced. Vital infrastructure has been destroyed and three quarters of the national budget is spent on defence. If it continues, the conflict in Sierra Leone will further complicate the problem of bringing peace to Liberia and could have a more general destabilizing effect in the region.

On the basis of the exploratory mission's findings, I have decided to appoint Mr. Berhanu Dinka (Ethiopia) as my Special Envoy for Sierra Leone for an initial period of three months to work with the parties concerned towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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